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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5.6 A.)

1. An apparatus, which performs a service in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

5 registration means for registering in advance predetermined information for a user who is authorized to use said apparatus;

input means for use by said user to enter said user information and a first operating instruction
10 request for said different apparatus;

first authentication means for employing said predetermined information registered by said registration means and said user information entered by said user at said input means to determine whether said
15 user is an authorized user;

transmission means for, based on the results obtained by said authentication means, transmitting to said different apparatus a second operating instruction and said user information that are entered at said
20 input means;

second authentication means for obtaining from said different apparatus the results of an authentication process, performed for said user information received from said transmission means, to
25 determine whether said user is authorized to use said different apparatus; and

determination means for employing the results

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obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether said user is to be permitted to use said service.

5 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said registration information and said user information each includes at the least a user ID and a password.

10 3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

 scanner means for reading a document,
 wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by said scanner means using a printer function of said
15 different apparatus.

 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

 scanner means for reading a document,
20 wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by said scanner means using a storage function of said different apparatus.

25 5. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

 scanner means for reading a document,

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wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means by using a facsimile transmission function of said different apparatus.

6. An apparatus that performs a service in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

10 registration means for registering, in advance, predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus;

reception means for receiving user information and an operating instruction request for said apparatus,

15 both of which are entered by a user at said different apparatus on said network;

authentication means for employing said information registered by said registration means and said user information received by said reception means

20 to determine whether said user is an authorized user; and

determination means for employing the results obtained by said authentication means to determine whether said operating instruction request received by

25 said reception means is to be accepted.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

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said registration information and said user information each includes at the least a user ID and a password.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

printing means for outputting data to a printer, wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printer means to print image data read by the scanner function of said different apparatus.

9. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means for storing data, wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by the scanner function of said different apparatus.

10. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile, wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by the scanner function of said

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different apparatus.

11. A communication system wherein at least a first device performs a service in association with a second device accessible across a network, said first device comprising:

first registration means for registering in advance predetermined information for a user who is authorized to use said first device;

input means for use by said user to enter said user information and an operating instruction request for said second device;

first authentication means for employing said predetermined information registered by said first registration means and said user information entered by said user at said input means to determine whether said user is an authorized user;

transmission means for, based on the results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to said second device said user information and said operating instruction that are entered at said input means, and

said second device comprising:

second registration means for registering, in advance, predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said second device;

reception means for receiving user information and

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an operating instruction request for said second device, both of which are entered by a user at said first device;

second authentication means for employing said
5 information registered by said second registration means and said user information received by said reception means to determine whether said user is an authorized user; and

determination means for employing the results
10 obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether said operating instruction request received by said reception means is to be accepted.

12. A communication system according to claim 11,
15 wherein said registration information and said user information each includes at the least a user ID and a password.

13. A communication system according to claim 11,
20 wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises printing means for printing data; and wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printer means to print image data
25 read by said scanner means.

14. A communication system according to claim 11,

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wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises storage means for storing data; and wherein said operating instruction is an instruction
5 for employing said storage means to store image data read by said scanner means.

15. A communication system according to claim 11,
wherein said first device further comprises scanner
10 means for reading a document and said second device further comprises facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile; and wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for employing
said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a
15 predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means.

16. A communication method whereby an apparatus performs a service in association with a different
20 apparatus accessible across a network, comprising the steps of:

employing a registration table in which user information entered by a user and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said
25 apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user;

based on the obtained results, transmitting to

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said different apparatus an operating instruction and
said user information that are entered by said user;
obtaining from said different apparatus the
results of an authentication process, performed for
5 said user information that are transmitted, to
determine whether said user is authorized to use said
different apparatus; and
employing the obtained results to determine
whether said user is to be permitted to use said
10 service.

17. A communication method according to claim 16,
wherein said information in said registration table and
said user information each includes at the least a user
15 ID and a password.

18. A communication method according to claim 16,
further comprising the step of:
employing a scanner to read a document,
20 wherein said operating instruction is an
instruction for printing image data read by said
scanner using a printer function of said different
apparatus.

25 19. A communication method according to claim 16,
further comprising the step of:
employing a scanner to read a document,

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wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by said scanner using a storage function of said different apparatus.

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20. A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of said different apparatus.

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21. A communication method whereby an apparatus connected to a network performs a user authentication process, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a different apparatus on said network, user information and an operating instruction request for said apparatus;

employing a registration table in which said user information and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user; and

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employing the obtained results to determine whether said received operating instruction request is

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to be accepted.

22. A communication method according to claim 21,
wherein said registration information and said user
5 information each includes at the least a user ID and a
password.

23. A communication method according to claim 21,
further comprising the step of:
10 outputting data to a printer,
wherein said operating instruction is an
instruction for outputting, from said printer, image
data read by the scanner function of said different
apparatus.

15 24. A communication method according to claim 21,
further comprising the step of:
storing data in a storage device,
wherein said operating instruction is an
20 instruction for storing, in said storage device, image
data read by the scanner function of said different
apparatus.

25 25. A communication method according to claim 21,
further comprising the step of:
transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined
destination,

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wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to said predetermined destination, image data read by the scanner function of said different apparatus.

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26. A communication method whereby at least a first device and a second device mutually communicate with each other across a network and each perform a user authentication process, comprising:

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a determination step whereat said first device employs a registration table in which user information entered by a user and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user;

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a transmission step whereat, based on the obtained results, said first device transmits to said second device an operating instruction request and said user information that are entered by said user;

20

a reception step whereat said second device receives said user information and said operating instruction request output at said transmission step;

25

a determination step whereat said second device employs a registration table in which said user information received at said reception step and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to

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determine whether said user is an authorized user; and
an accepting step whereat said second device
employs the obtained results to determine whether said
operating instruction request received at said
5 reception step is to be accepted.

27. A communication method according to claim 26,
wherein said registration information and said user
information each includes at the least a user ID and a
10 password.

28. A communication method according to claim 26,
further comprising:
a reading step whereat said first device employs a
15 scanner to read a document; and
an output step whereat said second device outputs
data to a printer,
wherein said operating instruction is an
instruction for employing said printer to print image
20 data read by said scanner.

29. A communication method according to claim 26,
further comprising:
a reading step whereat said first device employs a
25 scanner to read a document; and
a storage step whereat said second device stores
data in a storage device,

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wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in said storage device, image data read by said scanner.

5 30. A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

 a reading step whereat said first device employs a scanner to read a document;

 a transmission step whereat said second device
10 transmits data to a predetermined destination by facsimile,

 wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting image data read by said scanner to a predetermined destination by facsimile.

15

 31. A storage medium on which is stored a computer program that is to be executed by the computer of an apparatus that performs a service in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network,
20 said computer program comprising:

 a process for employing a registration table in which user information entered by a user and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to
25 determine whether said user is an authorized user;

 a process for, based on the obtained results, transmitting to said different apparatus an operating

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instruction and said user information that are entered
by said user;

a process for obtaining from said different
apparatus the results of an authentication process,
5 performed for said user information that are
transmitted, to determine again whether said user is
authorized to use said different apparatus; and

a process for employing the obtained results to
determine again whether said user is to be permitted to
10 use said service.

32. A storage medium according to claim 31,
wherein said information in said registration table and
said user information each includes at the least a user
15 ID and a password.

33. A storage medium according to claim 31, said
computer program further comprising:

a process for employing a scanner to read a
20 document,

wherein said operating instruction is an
instruction for printing image data read by said
scanner using a printer function of said different
apparatus.

25 34. A storage medium according to claim 31, said
computer program further comprising:

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a process for employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by said scanner using a storage function of said different apparatus.

35. A storage medium according to claim 31, said computer program further comprising:

a process for employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of said different apparatus.

36. A storage medium on which is stored a computer program that is to be executed by the computer of an apparatus that performs a service in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, said computer program comprising:

a process for receiving, from a different apparatus on said network, user information and an operating instruction request for said apparatus;

a process for employing a registration table in which said user information and predetermined

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information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user; and

5 a process for employing the obtained results to determine whether said received operating instruction request is to be accepted.

37. A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein said registration information and said user information each includes at the least a user ID and a password.

38. A storage medium according to claim 36, said computer program further comprising:
15 a process for outputting data to a printer, wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for outputting, by said printer, image data read by the scanner function of said different apparatus.

20 39. A storage medium according to claim 36, said computer program further comprising:
a process for storing data in a storage device, wherein said operating instruction is an
25 instruction for storing, in said storage device, image data read by the scanner function of said different apparatus.

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40. A storage medium according to claim 36, said computer program further comprising:

a process for transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined destination,

5 wherein said operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to said predetermined destination, image data read by the scanner function of said different apparatus.

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